

Fishermen and Marine Researchers are Invited to Discuss Habitat-Related Research Ideas

The National Marine Fisheries Service, in cooperation with the New England Fishery Management Council's Research Steering Committee, will hold two meetings in the New England region. The purpose of these sessions is to solicit input from fishermen and scientists to assist in identifying and prioritizing habitat-related research issues.

Monday, May 12, 10am – 4 pm, Portland, Maine
Casco Bay Lines Ferry Terminal Conference Room
56 Commercial Street
Portland, ME 04106
Telephone (207) 774-7871

Friday, May 16, 10am – 4 pm, New Bedford, Massachusetts
School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST)
at UMASS Dartmouth
706 South Rodney French Boulevard
New Bedford, MA 02744-1221
Telephone (508) 910-6353

All parties are encouraged to discuss a range of ideas that could lead to research projects that are undertaken as fishermen/scientist partnerships. Broad concepts identified at the meetings will be used by NMFS to define research priorities to be included in a Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP, scheduled for distribution in early June, will contain details about funds available to support cooperative habitat-related research projects, proposal requirements, the evaluation process and a timeline for announcing projects that receive funding. An agenda will be available shortly and posted on the Council, NMFS and other websites.

**For further information call or email either Patricia Fiorelli
at the Council Office, 978/465-0492, pfiorelli@nefmc.org;
or Earl Meredith at NMFS Cooperative Research Partners Initiative,
978/281-9276, earl.meredith@noaa.gov.**